

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Akihiro YASUDA et al.

Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned

Appl. No. : 10/575,356

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

(U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/014648)

I.A. Filed : April 11, 2006

Confirmation No. : Not Yet Assigned



FIXING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-

1.98, Applicants hereby submit the following documents:

- (1) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 10-74009, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicants note that this document is cited on pages 3 and 7 of the specification of the above-captioned application.
- (2) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2003-123961, together with an English language Abstract of the same, and patent family member U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003-0086736 to SEKIGUCHI et al, which was published on May 8, 2003. Applicants note that the Japanese document is

cited on pages 3 and 7 of the specification of the above-captioned application.

- (3) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005-0201768 to TATEMATSU et al., which was published on September 15, 2005.
- (4) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005-0199613 to SAMEI et al., which was published on September 15, 2005.
- (5) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006-0099001 to ASAKURA et al., which was published on May 11, 2006.
- (6) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006-0072931 to ASAKURA et al., which was published on April 6, 2006.
- (7) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/575,353.
- (8) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/565,270.
- (9) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/576,307.

The following documents were cited in an International Search Report with respect to PCT/JP2004/014648. Copies of the International Search Report (in Japanese and English) have been filed concurrently with the present application and should thus have been brought to the attention of the Examiner.

- (10) WO 2002-029498, together with patent family member U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002-0190060 to IMAI et al., which was published on December 19, 2002.
- (11) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2003-77645, together with an English language Abstract of the same.

(12) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-125407, together with an English language Abstract of the same.

(13) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 10-74009. Applicants note that this document is the same as the above-noted document (1).

The relevance of the documents cited in the International Search Report, as ascertained by the International Examiner, are set forth in the International Search Report.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii) and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to wave the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii) if the U.S. patent application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. patent application publications and patent applications are not enclosed herewith. Further, since the International Bureau is assumed to have sent copies of the documents cited in the International Search Report to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, copies of these documents are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

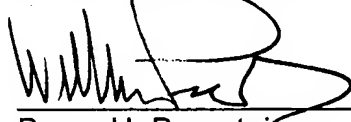
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents are attached hereto, and all of the documents are listed on an attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate space on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

P29712.A02

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Akihiro YASUDA et al.

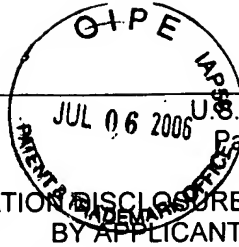


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FORM PTO-1449

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark OfficeAtty. Docket No.
P29712Application No.
10/575,356

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT**
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant
Akihiro YASUDA et al.Filing Date
I.A. Filed October 5, 2004Group
Not Yet Assigned**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	2003 /	0 0 8 6 7 3 6	05/08/03	SEKIGUCHI et al.			
	2005 /	0 2 0 1 7 6 8	09/15/05	TATEMATSU et al.			
	2005 /	0 1 9 9 6 1 3	09/15/05	SAMEI et al.			
	2006 /	0 0 9 9 0 0 1	05/11/06	ASAKURA et al.			
	2006 /	0 0 7 2 9 3 1	04/06/06	ASAKURA et al.			
	2002 /	0 1 9 0 0 6 0	12/19/02	IMAI et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES	NO
	10	- 0 7 4 0 0 9	03/17/98	JAPAN				
	2003	- 1 2 3 9 6 1	04/25/03	JAPAN				
	2002	/ 0 2 9 4 9 8	04/11/02	W.I.P.O.				
	2003	- 0 7 7 6 4 5	03/14/03	JAPAN				
	2001	- 1 2 5 4 0 7	05/11/01	JAPAN				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	1	English Language Abstract of JP 10-074009.
	2	English Language Abstract of JP 2003-123961.
	3	English Language Abstract of JP 2003-077645.
	4	English Language Abstract of JP 2001-125407.
	5	U.S. Patent Application No. 10/575,353 to YASUDA et al., filed April 11, 2006.
	6	U.S. Patent Application No. 10/565,270 to YASUDA et al., filed April 11, 2006.
	7	U.S. Patent Application No. 10/576,307 to SAMEI et al., filed April 11, 2006.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.